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LIBYA

Libya Elections and Governance Support Program (LEGS)

BACKGROUND

Grantee: International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES)

Project Title: Libya Elections and Governance Support Program (LEGS)

Duration: Oct. 2012 – Sept. 2019

Project Amount: \$12.6 million

OBJECTIVE

To strengthen citizen confidence in Libya's elected government during a key political transition in the country. A primary component of this project is to increase public and stakeholder confidence in the integrity of elections as a vehicle for peacefully and democratically selecting leaders. Additionally, this program seeks to increase women's and marginalized groups' genuine inclusion and participation into Libyan governing and legislative processes.



A participant at the Gender & Elections BRIDGE workshop engages men and women in discussion.

PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

1. Provide assistance and advice to the Libyan High National Election Commission (HNEC), including support for strategic planning, a study on out-of-country voting, and planning for election security;
2. Increase public understanding of steps in the democratic process related to Libya's political transition;
3. Provide technical support and advice to the Judiciary and HNEC on the required legal framework to conduct free and fair elections, and the process to resolve electoral disputes;
4. Build the capacity of HNEC and civil society organizations (CSOs) to increase transparency in political/campaign finance;
5. Increase women's and marginalized groups' genuine inclusion and participation in Libyan electoral and civic processes; and
6. Increase awareness of and access for persons with disabilities.

PROGRAM ACHIEVEMENTS

- Supported the HNEC in facilitating roundtables discussions with Libyan judges and members of elected assemblies to review and prepare draft legislation for future elections and referenda to be considered by the legislature;
- Trained HNEC staff in electoral dispute resolution, public outreach, internal communications and reporting, out-of-country voting procedures, social media management, and campaign finance regulations;
- Worked with the HNEC Secretariat to form a gender unit and support the Secretariat in fulfilling its mandate to mainstream gender in all HNEC activities and processes;
- Supported Libyan CSOs in establishing and maintaining four Democracy Resource Centers, where civil society and community organizations can discuss and engage in civic awareness activities related to Libya's political transition;
- Held a roundtable for 18 CSO members to introduce campaign finance monitoring methods, tools, and best practices;
- Launched the "Rights Unite" campaign on disability rights and elections. Carried out sensitivity workshops led by disabled persons reaching more than 500 journalists and activists, and organized seminars at 14 schools in 9 cities reaching more than 800 students;
- Conducted a nationwide public opinion survey that looked at the likelihood of voters to go to the polls and engage in political events. Findings were shared with the HNEC and the donor community.